

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:RWAHERNE

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DOD/ISA/NESA:COL.FIFER

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L/PM:JAMICHEL

PM:MR.STERN S/S-JLHOGANSON

T:MR. LEWIS

NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

USMTM DHAHHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 164709 TOSEC 060143

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY SUPPLY ACTIONS FOR SAUDI ARABIA

1. AMBASSADOR IS AUTHORIZED TO PRESENT TO PRINCE SULTAN FOLLOWING U.S. PROPOSALS IN RESPONSE TO SAUDI REQUESTS FOR: (A) EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF 152 TOW LAUNCHERS AND 3040 MISSILES; AND (B) ACTION TO SHORTEN DELIVERY TIMES FOR THE 43 155MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS ALREADY ON ORDER AND SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY BEGINNING IN JUNE 1977.

2. TOW MISSILES - SAUDI REQUEST IS UNDER SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION. PENDING FINAL DECISION ON OVERALL QUANTITIES REQUESTED, USG IS PREPARED TO DELIVER 50 LAUNCHERS AND 500 MISSILES WITHIN 120 DAYS OF SIGNATURE OF A LETTER OF OFFER. IF SAG RESPONDS POSITIVELY TO THIS PROPOSAL, WE WILL FORWARD APPROPRIATE LETTER OF OFFER PROMPTLY.

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3. 155MM SP HOWITZERS - ALL PROGRAMMED PRODUCTION OF THIS ITEM IS FOR FOREIGN CUSTOMERS; THUS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DELIVER NEW WEAPONS EARLIER THAN PROGRAMMED DELIVERY TIME. WE UNDERSTAND SAUDI INTEREST IN BEGINNING TRAINING AND FAMILIARIZATION WITH THIS WEAPON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND TO HELP MEET THEIR OBJECTIVES WE ARE PREPARED TO LEASE AT NO COST TO USG 24 REHABILITATED HOWITZERS FROM U.S. STOCKS FOR A TWO-YEAR PERIOD. THESE WEAPONS WOULD BE IN

THE SAME CONDITION AS THOSE ISSUED TO THE U.S. ARMY, AND WOULD BE SUPPLIED AT THE RATE OF ONE BATTERY (SIX WEAPONS) EVERY SIX MONTHS TO ALLOW ORDERLY PHASING-IN; AS PART OF THIS PROPOSAL WE WOULD OFFER TO PROVIDE A MOBILE TRAINING TEAM FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS TO TRAIN SAUDI SCHOOL CADRE AND TO ASSIST THEM IN TRAINING THE FIRST CLASS OF STUDENTS. TRAINING TEAM, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE OPERATOR AND ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE TRAINING AND UNIT TRAINING EXERCISE, COULD BE SENT TO SAUDI ARABIA ALONG WITH FIRST SHIPMENT OF REHABILITATED WEAPONS TO EXPEDITE TRAINING PROGRAM. IF SAG WISHES PURSUE THIS COURSE OF ACTION, WE WILL PROMPTLY PREPARE APPROPRIATE LETTERS OF OFFER; IN PRINCIPLE SAG WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COST OF TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS BOTH WAYS, APPLICABLE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, COST OF REPAIR PARTS USED FOR IN-COUNTRY MAINTENANCE, AND THE COST OF RETURNING THE EQUIPMENT TO A CONDITION SIMILAR TO THAT WHEN ISSUED, ALONG WITH COSTS OF MOBILE TRAINING TEAM. INGERSOLL

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